

IREC sample form for animal owner at livestock market to consent to participate in an ILRI research study

Project name:

Current research:

Collaborating Institutions:

Invitation to participate and description of project

You are invited to participate in a research study that is designed to develop an integrated surveillance system for zoonoses in livestock and humans in western Kenya. Zoonoses are those diseases that can be transmitted between animals, including livestock, and humans. We therefore plan on sampling cattle, sheep, goats and pigs at selected livestock markets and slaughterhouses in Bungoma, Busia and Kakamega Counties. At the same time, we shall also take samples from human patients at selected hospitals in the same area. All the samples will be tested for the presence of fifteen zoonoses which we know to be present in western Kenya. Through this work we will better understand how common these diseases are, and whether they are more likely to occur at certain times of the year or in certain places. This information will then help us make better recommendations on disease control and prevention strategies.

In order to decide whether or not you would like to participate we would first like to tell you what your participation will involve, and the possible risks and benefits of participating. We would like to stress that your participation is entirely voluntary. This work is being carried out by independent research workers at ILRI, and our partner institutions. We do not represent any government body.

Description of study procedures

If you decide to participate, the following things will happen:

1. Examination and sampling of selected livestock

The selected livestock (cattle, sheep or goat) will be examined and sampled. We will first perform a quick clinical examination of the animal. We will then take either a stool sample or a swab from the rectum, and a swab from the nose. We will also take a blood sample, milk sample, and hair/fleece clippings. We will also take photographs of any movement permits or other relevant documents. At the end we will mark the animal with non-toxic paint markers to make sure we do not re-sample it again.

2. Short questionnaire for the animal's owner

- a. We will ask you some questions about yourself, including your name, work and contact information, and your relation to the animal (e.g. farmer, livestock trader, or butcher).
- b. We will then ask you some questions about the selected animal, including:
 - i. The age and origin of the animal
 - ii. The reason for buying or selling the animal
 - iii. Whether the animal has ever been treated or vaccinated
 - iv. Whether the animal has ever been sick or had any abortions
- c. Lastly, we will ask you some questions about any other livestock animals you may keep on your household.

This questionnaire should last 20-30 minutes.

Confidentiality

Any personal data disclosed during this interview will remain confidential to the research team, and will only be used for the purposes of this project. Your identity will remain anonymous throughout. Although we will collect your personal details, these are solely for the purpose of contacting you, and will be kept separate from any answers you give to the questionnaire. Personal identifying information, such as your name and telephone number, will be securely kept and destroyed once the data collection has finished.

We will record your answers to the questionnaire electronically using a phone or tablet. This will be transmitted securely over the internet to computers at ILRI. Your answers and medical details will be given codes so that you cannot be identified from our database. All data is kept securely, and only the research team will have access to the database. We will not disclose any of your information unless we are legally required to do so; for example, in the case that we identify a reportable disease, we are obliged to notify the Kenyan authorities.

All samples taken from the animal will be tested at the field lab in Busia (International Livestock Research Institute/Department of Veterinary Sciences Zoonosis Lab) for fifteen different zoonotic diseases. We will also store the samples at the laboratory for further research after the initial tests are completed. Some of these samples may be sent to international laboratories at a later date for further testing, and some may be used to screen for other infections. You will not be able to be identified from the samples that you provide, and we will only use them to look for infectious diseases. Research results from your individual sample will not be returned to you.

After the project is completed, anonymous samples may be kept in a long-term storage facility at ILRI or elsewhere and used for further research. As the storage will be anonymous, you will not be personally identifiable, and it will not be possible to report back to you the results of any future studies.

Risks

Examination and sampling of your animals will be carried out by trained animal health or veterinary professionals. The risk to your animals from sampling is very low. Occasionally blood sampling may cause some bleeding, swelling or bruising where the blood is collected. Faecal sampling or swabbing is normally very safe, except in very rare circumstances if the animal reacts and moves violently during the sampling. If you have any concerns about your animals after sampling, please contact your local veterinarian, and inform the study team.

Benefits

The animal clinical examination and sampling will be provided at no cost to you. If any problems are identified during the examination, advice will be provided.

You will not directly benefit from the research, but we will organize meetings throughout the course of the study to communicate some of the results and discuss the research. Government departments will also be informed of the research results, and we hope that this will help them to make better decisions that bring benefits to both livestock and human populations in western Kenya.

Participation and withdrawal

We would like to emphasise that your participation is voluntary. If you consent and then later decide that you would like to withdraw, you are free to do this at any point.

If you later decide that you do not want that the samples taken from your animal, or your information, to be used in the study, you can contact the study team and ask that your contribution be withdrawn. Contact details are provided below.

If there is anything that you have not understood, please feel free to ask questions. You are welcome to ask us to go over any aspect of this form again before you decide whether or not to participate.

Authorisation

I confirm that I have read (or someone has read to me) this form, and I have understood the purposes of the research, what my participation will involve and any risks of the research. I agree to participate in the project described.

Name of animal owner.....

Signature / thumb print.....

Date.....

Signature of Investigator.....

Contact details:

If you have any further questions about this project, or you have a research-related problem, please contact a member of the study team.

Investigator name

Investigator contact number

Project Manager: **Tel:**

Project Researcher: **Tel:**

Principal Investigator: **Tel:**

If you have any concerns about the way that the research has been conducted and would like to speak to an independent member of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee, please contact:

ILRI IREC Secretariat, Old Naivasha Road, PO Box 30709-00100, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: 020 422 3887